

Message Text

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42

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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P 071710Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO USDAO/ACCRA GHANA

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLV VA

USDAO ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

USDAO MADRID

CNO WASHDC

COMSECONDFLT

COMIDEASTFOR

COMCRUDESANT NORFOLK VA

COMSERVLANT NORFOLK VA

CTU TWO SEVEN PT NINE PT NINE

COMDESRON THREE TWO

USS MCCANDLESS

USS CHARLES F ADAMS

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9040

DIA WASHDC//AA-8//

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 2125

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SL, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SHIP VISIT FREETOWN

REF CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA 062209Z DEC BUE

1. LOCAL TEXACO REP PROJECTS MARINE DIESEL FUEL

SUPPLY SITUATION WILL BE EXTREMELY TIGHT IN MID-JANUARY.

BUNKERING LIMIT OF 50 TONS PER VESSEL WAS IMPOSED

DECEMBER 1. FURTHER COMPLICATING SITUATION IS FACT

LOCAL REFINERY WILL BE CLOSING DOWN FOR FIVE WEEKS

MAINTENANCE WORK AT END OF FEBRUARY, WHICH MEANS THAT TO

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NORMAL DEMANDS ON REFINERY IN NEXT TWO MONTHS MUST BE

ADDED OIL COMPANIES' REQUIREMENTS TO BUILD-UP STOCK-PILES SO THAT THEY CAN CONTINUE TO SUPPLY REGULAR CUSTOMERS DURING PERIOD OF REFINERY SHUTDOWN.

2. IN LIGHT FOREGOING TEXACO AT THIS TIME SERIOUSLY DOUBTS IT WOULD BE IN POSITION TO FUEL SHIPS 15 JAN 74. EVEN ON ASSUMPTION BEST POSSIBLE FUEL SITUATION AT TIME PROJECTED SHIPS VISIT, MAXIMUM AMOUNT FUEL TEXACO COULD SUPPLY EACH SHIP WOULD BE 30,000 GALLONS (100 TONS). TEXACO CLAIMS IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE PRECISE READING ON FUEL AVAILABILITY UNTIL FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY AFTER COMPLETION OF JOINT GOVERNMENT/OIL COMPANIES END OF YEAR FUEL POLICY REVIEW.

3. BASED ON SUGGESTION TO EMBASSY BY OLDTIME "WEST COASTER" IN SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND OUR OWN EXPERIENCE IN OBTAINING FUEL FOR USS KOELSCH AND USS BRUMBY, STRONGLY COMMEND THAT FUELING REQUESTS BE STATED IN TONS RATHER THAN GALLONS. WHILE TOTAL AMOUNTS SAME, TON FIGURE MORE PALATABLE AND LESS FRIGHTENING TO WEST AFRICAN PORT AUTHORITIES AND GOVERNMENTS.

4. EMBASSY CERTAIN THAT KEY TO OUR OBTAINING CLEARANCE FOR SHIPS VISIT WOULD BE GOSL'S ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT FUELING ON LOCAL SUPPLY SITUATION. WE ONLY GOT FUEL FOR USS BRUMBY AND USS KOELSCH WHEN GOSL GOT OVER INITIAL SHOCK OF OUR REQUEST EXPRESSED IN GALLONS AND WERE REASSURED THAT SIERRA LEONEANS WOULD NOT GO WITHOUT IF SHIPS RECEIVED BUNKERS.
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